

Applicants provisionally elect for prosecution claims 1-5 and 38-41, which all read on Species 1.

However, in evaluating each species, the Applicants' attorney believes the claims may be considered to fall into two separate groups. The first group, which includes Species 1-3 and 6-7, generally involve in common an encoded (base) image, at least a first region of the encoded image, a modified portion of the image, and an encoded modified portion of the image. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that, in performing a prior art search in connection with examination of provisionally elected Species 1, the Examiner will likely locate art germane to Species 2-3 and 6-7. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow the Applicants to elect Species 1-3 and 6-7, at least, in the instant application for prosecution on the merits.

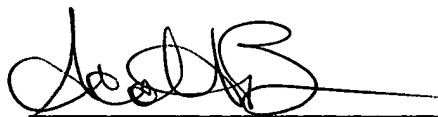
In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, payment for those fees has been enclosed in the form of a check. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' attorney, Scott Born, at (425) 455-5575.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

Date: February 2, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.G. Scott Born', written over a horizontal line.

P.G. Scott Born
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